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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of

AKANO

Serial No. 09/997,001

Filed: November 30, 2001

Atty. Ref.: 914-146

Group:

Examiner:

For: CONTENT PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION AND
RETURNING SYSTEM, MANAGEMENT APPARATUS,
RENTAL TERMINAL, RETURNING TERMINAL AND
CONTENT PROGRAMS RENTAL METHOD

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The references were cited in the attached European search report regarding a foreign counterpart application.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. '1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

DEC 5 2002

Technology Center

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ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

914-146

09/997,001

APPLICANT

TAKANO

FILING DATE

GROUP

November 30, 2001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

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*Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.

Form PTO-FB-A820 (Also PTO-1449)